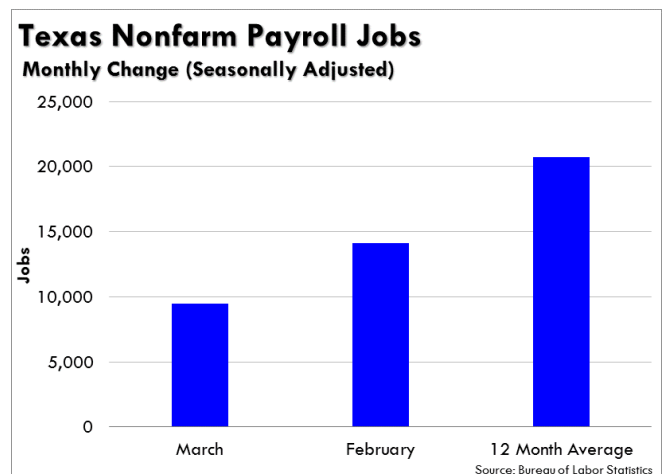
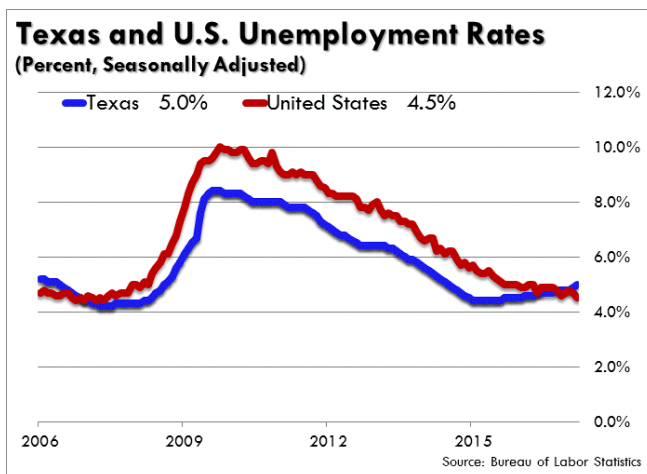


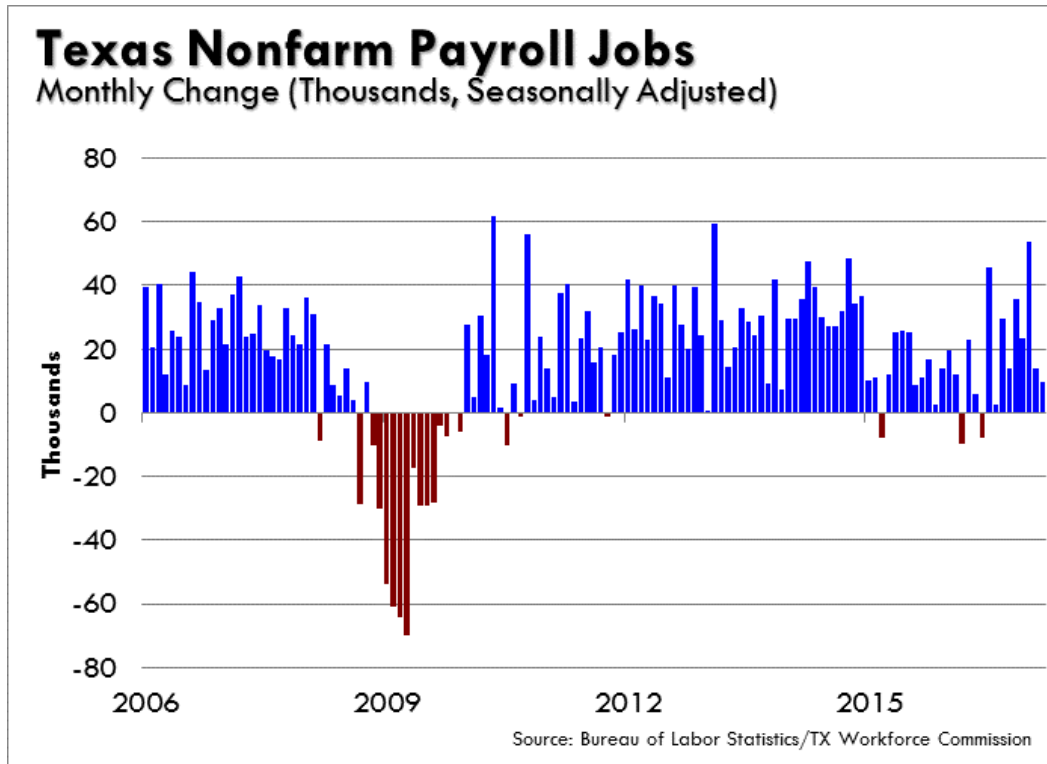


April 23, 2017

Summary

- **Texas added 9,500 jobs and the unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point to 5 percent in March** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, Texas added 249,000 jobs** and the unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage point from 4.6 percent.
- **In March, Texas's private sector added 7,000 jobs** and over the past twelve months it created 210,500 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed Texans rose by 14,882 in March**, and over the past year 245,365 Texans found jobs.
- Texas's **labor force participation rate increased to 64 percent** from 63.8 percent in March. Since last year, the labor force participation rate rose 0.4 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **declined by 0.2 percentage point to 4.5 percent in March**. State employment and unemployment data for April is scheduled for release on May 19, 2017. The national employment situation report for April will be released on Friday, May 5, 2017.





Texas Payroll Employment

Texas added 9,500 jobs, or 0.08 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, Texas added 14,100 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in Texas increased by 249,000, or 2.08 percent. Texas nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 11 of the past 12 months.

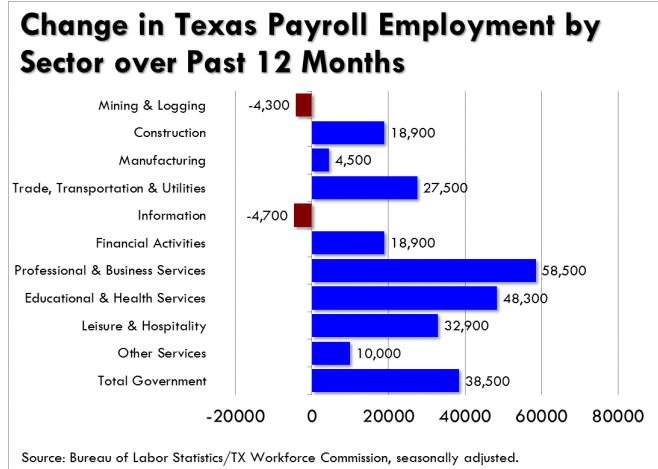
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 98,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the 12-month period ending March 2017, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,185,000 jobs, or 1.52 percent. Texas ranks 40th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, Texas's private-sector added 7,000 jobs, or 0.07 percent. The private-sector in Texas added 13,800 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Texas increased by 210,500, or 2.09 percent. Texas private-sector payroll employment has increased in 11 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 89,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,033,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.67 percent. Texas ranks 34th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Professional & Business Services (+13,200) and Mining & Logging (+4,800). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Leisure & Hospitality (-12,300) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-5,500).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional & Business Services (+58,500) and Educational & Health Services (+48,300). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Information (-4,700) and Mining & Logging (-4,300).



Texas Labor Force Statistics

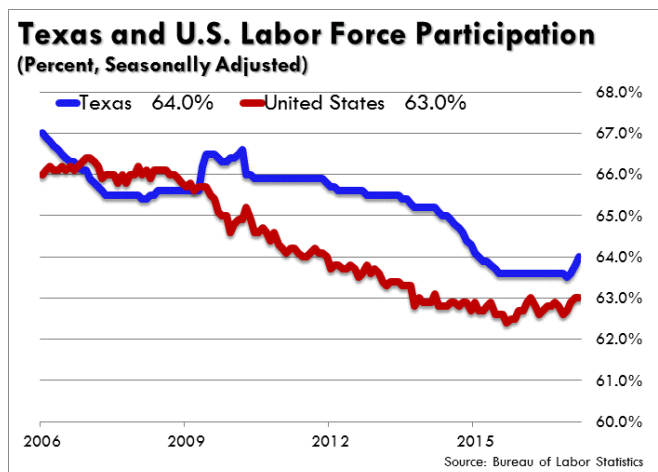
Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate in Texas rose to 64.0 percent in March from 63.8 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 22 have a higher labor force participation rate than Texas. The labor force participation rate in Texas is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Texas was 66.6 percent in March 2010. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Texas occurred in September 1995 when the labor force participation rate hit 69.4 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 63.5 percent in December 2016. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in January 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 63.2 percent. The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 63.0 percent, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Texas civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 60.8 percent in March from 60.7 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 27 have higher employment-to-



population ratios than Texas. The employment-to-population ratio in Texas is 0.1 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Texas was 62.8 percent in May 2007. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Texas occurred in November 1998 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 65.7 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 60.5 percent in December 2016. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 59.5 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 60.1 percent in March. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

